

City of Lafayette Staff Report

For: Lafayette City Council
By: Jennifer Russell, Parks, Trails & Recreation Director
Date Written: January 4, 2008
Meeting Date: January 14, 2008
Subject: Naming the south field at Buckeye Fields "Chaney Field" in honor of local community volunteer Matt Chaney.

Introduction

At its December 19, 2007 meeting, the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission unanimously approved naming the south field at Buckeye Fields "Chaney Field" in honor of local community volunteer Matt Chaney. This is in keeping with the City's "Naming Policy" (attached) which includes a provision stating: "Naming after persons who have contributed significantly to the City of Lafayette will be considered on a case-by-case basis for appropriate parks, open space, trails, and facilities."

As indicated in the 30+ letters submitted to the PT&R Commission in support of naming the field "Chaney Field" (attached), Matt Chaney volunteered for the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association Board and the Lafayette Little League Board. In addition, he served as the Safety and Fields Manager for Lafayette Little League and volunteered extensively at Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Middle School. He currently spends most of his volunteer time raising money for A.L.S. (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis).

Recommendation

Approve naming the south field at Buckeye Fields "Chaney Field" in honor of local community volunteer Matt Chaney

CITY OF LAFAYETTE

Naming Policy and Guidelines For Parks, Open Space, Recreation Facilities & Trails

Created by the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission on January 12, 2000

Background

The Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council regarding the naming of Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation facilities/amenities. Proposals for naming and/or renaming may come from any source including City Council and Commission members, staff, volunteers, organizations and individuals.

Naming is a way to remember shared history, to identify local natural resources and to honor individuals. Naming is also a useful way to help park users interpret parkland resources and to orient themselves while visiting city-owned facilities. Thus, the City endeavors not to duplicate names within its system.

Naming Policy

City parks, trails, and facilities will be named after natural features, such as plant and animal life, cultural features including archaeological and paleontological resources, topographic or geographic features, or for historic persons, families or events.

Such naming will be indicated on signs, brochures and maps and may be further described at a facility to recognize the individual, feature or resource and to further public understanding of the significance to the City.

Naming after persons who have contributed significantly to the City of Lafayette will be considered on a case-by-case basis for appropriate parks, open space, trails, and facilities.

Specific fund raising efforts for new park facilities or structures may contain a naming element in recognition of donors who fund major costs.

Naming Process

Proposed names will be reviewed by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission and a recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council. The City Council will complete the process with its review and will take action on the proposed naming.

The naming of a new Park or Trail will be included in the appropriate Master Plans. The name used may be changed in the future if desired, based on a vote of the City Council. The Master Plan will be updated when revisions are made in conjunction with other changes as deemed appropriate by City Council. Naming will be finalized by a City Council Resolution.



Lafayette Little League

December 1, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Topic: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to 'Chaney Field'

Jennifer,

As President of Lafayette Little League, the areas largest recreational sport program, we would appreciate your support in renaming the Buckeye Field South, Chaney Field. As you know, Matt Chaney has been a long standing volunteer in Lafayette. His volunteer achievements are exemplary and beyond comparison.

Matt has served our youth for years as a steady and consistent volunteer through many organizations. These volunteer efforts include:

- 1) Serving on the Board of LMYA.
- 2) Serving on the Board of Lafayette Little League.
- 3) Serving as Safety Manager for Lafayette Little League.
- 4) Serving the Schools of Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Intermediate School as a classroom assistant and playground organizer.
- 5) Serving as a groundskeeper for fields at Lafayette Little League.
- 6) Leading weekly sing-along's for the Mulberry Tree preschoolers.
- 7) Chaperoning the 4th grade camp at Coloma.
- 8) A leading fund raiser for ALS.

Matt has touched many lives through numerous venues beyond those outlined above. He has preformed much of these activities while battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and has lived with the knowledge of the consequences facing this dreaded disease.

His sound commitment to this community, his family, children, and friends is inspirational to us all. Matt looks first to help others, help his community, and has been an advocate for raising the awareness of ALS.

I strongly recommend the renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field. It is through this recognition that we can point our kids toward the importance of all the fine qualities Matt stands for.

Respectfully,

Jon Ewing
President
Lafayette Little League
Cell (858) 229-9893

P.O. Box 872

Lafayette, CA 94549

(925) 284-3583



December 12, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Commission
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

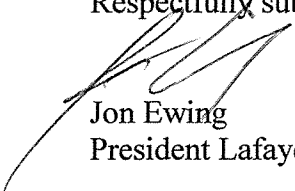
Topic: Lafayette Little League's Proposal to Rename Buckeye Field South, Chaney Field

Lafayette Little League and a large constituency of citizens from the City of Lafayette are passionate about renaming Buckeye Field South, "Chaney Field". The renaming would be in recognition of an incredible volunteer to the community in Lafayette, Matt Chaney.

The attached package includes:

- 1) Letters of support from past and present President's of Lafayette Little League.
- 2) Letter of support from the Principal of Burton Valley School, Jan Askin.
- 3) Letter of support from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ALS Association of the Greater Bay Area, Brian Griggs.
- 4) Two outstanding articles written about Matt Chaney.
- 5) Dozens of letters of support from members of the Lafayette Little League Board of Directors and interested citizens of Lafayette.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Ewing
President Lafayette Little League

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

December 6, 2007

Dear Jennifer

As president of Lafayette Little League for three years at the beginning of the decade, I had the good fortune to work with the City of Lafayette on the creation of Buckeye Field. The project was a wonderful example of public-private partnership. It succeeded for several reasons:

- the gracious and thoughtful leadership of our City Council and Parks Commission,
- the dedication of city staff including City Manager Steve Falk and Parks Director Jennifer Russell; and
- our community's overriding desire to support children and families.

It's that last item I'd like to reference briefly. I understand your organization wants to name the field after long-time Lafayette resident and civic volunteer Matt Chaney. It's a wonderful idea that reflects perfectly the spirit of Lafayette.

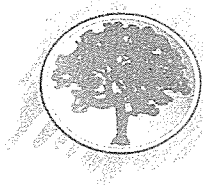
Matt embodies our commitment to families and children. He's been a coach and volunteer in kids' programs for the entire 15 years we've been his neighbor and friend. On the play fields, at lunch monitoring middle school recess, or in the classroom, no one has given more to our kids than Matt.

He won't admit this but what he has given them -- and all of us -- most of all is an example of courage, dignity and humor in the face of rotten circumstances. Everyone in town knows Matt. They know he has ALS -- Lou Gerhig's disease. They marvel at his happy, joking personality in spite of this disease. They are in awe of his zest for life and his spit-in-the-eye-of-adversity bicycle junkets and helicopter skiing adventures.

For all these reasons, it's entirely appropriate to name the field after Matt. Of course, I have a more selfish and prosaic reason to endorse the honor. In three years as Little League president, it was always Matt who striped the fields, manicured the fields, even vacuumed rainwater off the fields so that Lafayette kids could play ball.

Without him, the game -- and life in Lafayette -- couldn't go on as scheduled. Let's recognize that fact by honoring him in the fashion you recommend. Matt Chaney Field is a fitting tribute to a worthy Lafayette dad, friend and hero.

Mike Zampa
Past President, Lafayette Little League
2 Wallabi Court
Lafayette, Ca 94549



LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Burton Valley Elementary

561 Merriewood Drive • Lafayette, CA 94549

Telephone: (925) 284-7046

PRINCIPAL
Jan Askin

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Dana Chohlis

December 3, 2007

It is my pleasure to write in support of renaming the Little League Field to Matt Chaney Field. The Noon Sports League (NSL) at Burton Valley Elementary School would not exist without Matt.


Mr. Matt Chaney was one of the first parents with whom I became acquainted in my first two years as principal of Burton Valley Elementary School. He was also one of the parents that I saw on campus most often. He was a regular volunteer at school during the time his two sons attended Burton Valley primarily as the manager of NSL. Over the years, this included soccer, basketball, and football seasons.

One might think that all that is required to run noon league sports is showing up at noon. On the contrary, Mr. Chaney communicated with upper grade teachers, met with team captains, formed the teams, set up the schedules, maintained the statistics, AND showed up at noon.

Without fail, Mr. Chaney arrived at school in great spirits and shared his enthusiasm with the students. He promoted sportsmanship and fair play. His value as a role model is inestimable.

Naming a field in his honor is an appropriate salute to a dedicated volunteer and a positive influence on youth sports.

Sincerely,



Jan Askin

December 10, 2007

City of Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Potential Change of Fields to "Chaney Field"

Dear Jennifer-

It is with great pride that I have the opportunity to write in support of the City of Lafayette's consideration to re-name one of the Buckeye Fields in honor of my good friend, Matt Chaney. I am also honored to have been recently asked to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ALS Association of the Greater Bay Area and am writing on behalf of the ALS Association to also encourage the City of Lafayette to provide Matt with this honor.

Matt Chaney and I served together as coaches, managers, and Board members for many years in the Lafayette Little League program. During this time I was able to see how Matt's commitment and dedication to making the program for the children in our community the best it could be. Matt and I shared the conviction that the league should be for children of all ages and abilities and thru Matt's involvement and leadership, the program's success has continued to escalate. Initially, there was a perception that the league was for the "better players" but that has now changed, in large part thanks to Matt, and now the league is truly for "all players" of all abilities.

In regard to the ALS Association, Matt has been a true leader by example in his daily fight against this awful disease. I have seen the progression of the disease with Matt and while he is not longer able to show kids how to throw a curve ball, his positive outlook and sensitive touch to all certainly is a great influence upon others. Our Association has used Matt as somewhat of a "poster representative" on how you can live with the disease and despite the daily struggles which the disease provides, continue to strive forward and have a positive effect on others. Matt has shared his experiences and wisdom with countless fellow patients and that positive outlook and impact has certainly helped make the lives of those afflicted with the disease much happier. Again, Matt leads by example, just as he did with the Lafayette Little League.

I strongly urge the City of Lafayette to grant this honor to Matt Chaney. I can think of no more deserving individual and the City's ability to increase the awareness of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis disease will certainly be appreciated not only by our Association, but all of the patients and family who have been impacted by ALS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Griggs, Chairman

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Tuesday, Dec 4, 2007 Volume 8, Issue 37

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Riding for those can't

Event to raise money for ALS arrives with its share of tragedy

BY SARAH E. THIEN

Date: 07/26/2007

Based on his voice, a person could be forgiven for mistaking Matt Chaney for a man of advanced age, at least 80 years old, maybe older. In reality, he is 47. But Chaney's tongue, and therefore his voice, has been affected by ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.



Ready to roll:

Matt Chaney, 47, is ready to ride on his recumbent bike in honor of his late father-in-law Joseph Miller, who died while training for this race.

PHOTO COURTESY GLENN PICKETT

It makes him sound much older than he is, but the disease hasn't taken away his ability to do things that a much younger man would find challenging. Riding 100 miles on his recumbent bicycle comes to mind.

"Because I'm reclined, it's actually very comfortable," he said of his bike. "Actually going downhill I can pass a lot of people, but uphill I am a bit slower."

On July 21 Chaney rode and completed the ALS Central Coast Century ride, a 100-mile ride that wound through Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, and along Highway 46. The ride was organized to raise money for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS, a disease that affects about 30,000 people in the United States.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, eventually leading to death when the motor neurons in the brain are no longer able to control muscle function and the body becomes completely paralyzed.

Chaney was diagnosed seven years ago, putting him at the low end of the age range of 40 to 70, the years when most cases are diagnosed, according to the ALS Association. His symptoms so far include some loss of function in his arms and mouth, though he retains leg function, allowing him to ride his bike. He lives in Lafayette, north of San Francisco, but travels to different rides around the state to raise awareness of ALS.

"ALS will affect people differently but eventually it turns out the same," he said.

That inevitability is exactly what race organizer Glenn Pickett wants to help change by putting on a ride that raises money for research and care of ALS patients. Pickett put on the first ALS Central Coast Century ride three years ago after his brother Larry was diagnosed with the disease.

That first year Pickett raised about \$25,000 for the ALS Association. This year 105 people rode and together raised about \$50,000 to 60,000. At the time of press, the final tallies were still coming in. Riders asked for sponsorship and donations to raise the money.

It's a large sum of money and good news for Pickett, but this year's ride also came with its share of tragedy. Pickett's own brother, who lives in Atlanta and was excited when Pickett put on his first ride, has completely lost interest in the ride, and life in general, Pickett said.

Death often comes when an ALS patient's breathing capacity is below 30 percent. Pickett explained. His brother Larry's breathing capacity is at 20 percent. With no cure in sight, Larry has become discouraged, but Pickett said he's determined to keep going to help future ALS patients in honor of his



Hot Dawg!

Team Hot Dawg members Matt Chaney, middle, and his brother-in-law David, and sons Brian and Dylan celebrate the end of a successful 100 miles.

PHOTO COURTESY GLENN PICKETT

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"I can't be there to help him, but I can do this and hopefully help other people," Pickett said.

Half of all people affected with ALS live at least three or more years after diagnosis. Twenty percent live five years or more up to 10 percent will live more than ten years, according to the ALS Association. There is still no known cure for ALS.



Two for one:

Dayne Shultz, front, and his passenger rode the ALS Central Coast Century in honor of Shultz's father Don.

PHOTO COURTESY GLENN PICKETT

Chaney has been living with the disease for the last seven years, but it was his father-in-law who was the victim of another tragedy leading up to this ride. Joseph Miller, 70, was killed July 5 after being hit by a car while training for the ride. Chaney and his wife Liz and sons Dylan and Brian decided to go ahead with the ride.

"He would not have wanted us to avoid it or miss it because of him," Chaney said.

Miller was a huge supporter of his son-in-law and also the biggest single fundraiser for the century ride this year, according to Pickett. Miller alone raised \$8,000 for the cause.

In the face of death, a 100-mile ride is a good way to reaffirm life and to keep fighting. So Team Hot Dawg, as the Chaney/Miller family is known, all finished the race, though only Chaney, his brother-in-law David Miller, and Dylan took on the full 100 miles. (There were a few route choices at the ride including a 62-mile, a 15-mile ride, and a 5-mile course).

With Miller in mind, Chaney and his family plan to keep riding, next at another ALS ride in Napa Valley, and after that the next ride, and then the next.

"Raising money and awareness are what matter most about these events," Chaney said.

INFOBOX: Miss this ride? It's not too late

Keep an eye out for next year's Central Coast Century ride, which will happen around the same time of year as this one, as soon as race organizer Glenn Pickett picks a date. In the meantime, Matt Chaney, an avid participant in all ALS rides suggests the Napa Ride to Defeat ALS on Sept. 30, 2007.

Chaney said the ride is perhaps the most beautiful ride he's ever done with spectacular views of the Napa Valley. The ALS Association Bay Area Chapter sponsors the ride. Contact the race organizer Chris Dumas at chris@alsabayarea.org for more information.

Sun Staff Writer Sarah E. Thien can be reached for comments or story ideas at sthen@santamariasun.com.

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On His Feet To Fight ALS

September 14 2004 | PALS Profiles

 By Elizabeth Sivesind
 CONTRA COSTA TIMES

FROM A DISTANCE, Matt Chaney looks just like the rest of the dads on the soccer field coaching their elementary school-age players on the fine points of trapping and passing.

His 6-foot, 5-inch frame and rock-hard calf muscles are the first indication Chaney is a former jock. The tidy lines of cones, used to organize running and passing drills, not to mention his ease at dribbling the ball, are also clues that the guy has done this before.

But watch carefully, and it becomes clear Chaney is working harder than the other dads out there. It's a sticky, hot day, but the sweat soaks through his T-shirt. While he scrimmages with the kids, he becomes visibly fatigued. He stops for a minute on the sidelines to explain the throw-in motion to a player, but he can't lift his arms.

"The overhead doesn't work for me anymore," Chaney, a Lafayette resident, says with a smile to the third-grader, who was on his team last year.

Chaney, 44, is losing the use of his arms to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord. He is one of the 5,000 people diagnosed with ALS each year, and roughly 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time.

So how does Chaney, a stay-at-home dad who has taken on full responsibility for housekeeping, cooking, volunteer yard duty at the elementary school and chauffeuring his own kids around while his wife works full time, get out of bed every morning?

"I'm treating it like a flu," he says. "If I let it become more than it is, then it will be."

Which is particularly remarkable when one considers what daily life with ALS is like. In the 31/2 years since Chaney's diagnosis, his upper-body strength has degenerated by 85 percent to 95 percent. Picking up a glass of water, unscrewing the cap of his gas tank, wrapping a towel around his waist after a swim -- things any well person takes for granted -- have become difficult. Turning on a light switch can take two hands.

The disease, which often moves from the upper body to the legs, has attacked his tongue, making his speech slightly slur on certain letters and words. It also can prompt uncontrollable fits of laughter or crying.

For Chaney, it began with his right hand in the winter of 2000. It was a cool night in March and he couldn't grasp his guitar pick as he played. He had dislocated his finger the year before, so he attributed the strange sensation to the injury.

Before long, he was preparing for carpal tunnel surgery, as recommended by a hand specialist. When he mentioned cramping muscles to the doctor, the surgery was halted. He was sent to a neurologist, and by spring of 2001 he had two physicians concurring he had ALS. It was the best explanation for why his upper body twitched constantly, "like little lightning strikes," Chaney says, which were sometimes bad enough to wake him from a sound

sleep.

Some people can live for many years with the disease, but walking, speaking, swallowing and breathing become increasingly labored. Eventually wheelchairs, as well as breathing and feeding tubes, become a way of life. Though the body slowly deteriorates, the mind in most cases remains sharp until death, which can occur as soon as three to five years from diagnosis.

These are all considerations Chaney and his wife, Liz, an architect, are facing head on, though they do their best to shield their two young sons from the harsh realities of the terminal disease.

And Chaney considers himself a very lucky man. He is dealing with a form of ALS that is slow to progress, which is a good sign. If the disease progresses slowly from the get-go, it most likely will continue at that pace. Chaney has a friend in Moraga, a man just his age who was diagnosed 18 months ago, who is already in a wheelchair.

And as with everything in his life, from putting himself through school as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley to perfecting his golf game, Chaney never gives up.

In May, he took on a new challenge in his fight against ALS. He signed up for a series of charity walks sponsored by the Bay Area ALS Association. The nonprofit group hosts seven walks in Northern California, from Fresno to Napa, to raise funds that go toward grants for research as well as financial assistance to ALS patients. Chaney decided to participate in all seven of the two-mile walks, making himself the first to do so in the history of the organization. For that reason, he has been nominated for honorary chairman, a position normally reserved for city officials.

Part of his impetus to walk is to raise awareness for Proposition 71, or the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, which is on the November ballot. Many hope the initiative will lead to medical breakthroughs that could treat a range of neurological diseases, from Alzheimer's to Parkinson's.

With the help of friends, neighbors and family members, Chaney has raised more than \$30,000 in just two walks. With five to go, he has already gone well over his goal, which originally was \$5,000 per walk.

He's inspired a lot of participation along the way. Mike Ahr, a family friend and fellow coach during baseball season, challenged his team to a home run derby in order to raise money for Chaney's first walk in May. For every home run made at the derby, Ahr would put \$2 toward the ALS charity walk. Before long, parents of the team members caught wind of the idea, and matched Ahr's \$2 donation. In a 45-minute time period, the team of 12 raised \$1,008 (about \$19 per home run).

Ahr, a Lafayette resident, says he knows exactly why the community has responded with such enthusiasm to Chaney's cause. "Matt has touched people in so many ways," says Ahr. "He has put so much time into these kids (sports teams), and he has never expected anything back. We've rallied for him because it's the least we can do."

Brad Zenoni, a sophomore at Campolindo High School, signed up to walk in honor of Chaney on Oct. 2 in Alameda. Brad, who knows the Chaneys from the local swim team, has already raised more than \$500.

"Some people who are diagnosed with diseases take it as a defeat," Brad says. "They roll over and they give up. Matt never does that. He is always a fighter."

Chaney, certainly, is doing his best to keep the disease at bay. He has done everything in his power to slow down its progress, including participating in various medical studies to treat symptoms. He exercises at the gym three days a week. He digitally records some of his conversations, then downloads them to his computer, in order to keep track of how his speech is doing.

Three months ago he abandoned Western medicine to try an herbal remedy that has been used in China for 30 years to treat neurodegenerative diseases including ALS. He is on permanent disability from his job as salesman for a chemical manufacturer, and has eased up a bit on volunteer activities so he can devote more time to acupuncture, massage, meditation and extensive

stretching sessions to keep his joints and muscles supple.

"It's bad, there is no doubt about it. It's unexpected. It's not fair," Chaney says. "But it's not the end of the world."

That's not to say his world hasn't changed dramatically and won't continue to do so. This summer he broke his collarbone on a family vacation while skim boarding in the waves, a favorite activity. His upper body couldn't roll through the falls the way it used to. Even daily duties such as folding laundry have become so difficult it can take four hours to fold four loads. So now his sons help out.

Everything, Chaney says, takes a lot more concentration and effort. But he and his wife, Liz, have a rule that she can help him around the house only if he asks for it, which she says is very hard for someone like Matt to do.

"As hard as Matt tries to be strong, when you are faced with something like this, you do feel sorry for yourself," Liz says. "The despair is palatable. He tries to keep up his appearances, but you do go there sometimes."

Despite his upbeat approach, he has to prepare for the worst. A few years ago, Chaney spent more than four hours recording his voice saying 1,600 phrases for a program called the ModelTalker, which originated at the University of Delaware. If he ever loses his speech ability and needs to speak using a machine, this software program will synthesize his own voice rather than use a robotic recording.

That may or may not be a part of his future. For now, he is happy that he is still independent and can take care of his children.

"You play the hand you are dealt with and you try to have a poker face that fools the dealer," he says. "If it pans out that way, great. If it doesn't, I will go down trying."

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RESOLUTION
LAW GROUP P.C.

ROBERT L. GONSER
ATTORNEY

DIRECT: 925-299-5103
E-MAIL: BGONSER@RESLAWGRP.COM

November 29, 2007

Via U.S. Mail

Jennifer Russell, Director
Lafayette Parks & Recreation
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Renaming of Buckeye South Field

Dear Ms. Russell:

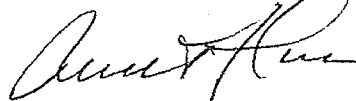
I am writing in support of the renaming of the Buckeye South Field in honor of Matt Chaney, an outstanding citizen and dedicated volunteer for the City of Lafayette.

By way of background, I have known Matt since 1983 when we attended UC Berkeley and belonged to the same fraternity. Matt has always been a thoughtful and generous contributor to all causes. His contributions and volunteerism to the City of Lafayette, Lafayette Little League and Burton Valley School are beyond comparison. Although for the past many years he has battled Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and lived with the knowledge of the ultimate consequences of this dreaded disease, Matt has never wallowed in self-pity but instead stayed focused on how he could help others. If he was not overseeing Lafayette Little League, coaching or managing one of his son's various sports teams, running the Burton Valley noon league for the elementary students, or sitting on various philanthropic boards and committees, Matt would be focusing his energies on raising the awareness of ALS and supporting those affected by this debilitating disease.

I grew up in Lafayette, and though I know there have been hundreds of wonderful volunteers in this City, I know of no one who has affected the lives of so many people, adults and children alike, as Matt. The renaming of the Buckeye South Field after Matt Chaney will serve to not only honor and recognize Matt for what he has given to our community, but also serve to further raise public awareness of the death sentence imposed by the disease which Matt has had to wake up to every day these past many years. Such a tribute is only minor recognition of the incredible achievements and selfless volunteerism of a wonderful husband, father, friend and citizen of the City of Lafayette, who has dedicated his life to helping the lives of those around him.

Very truly yours,

RESOLUTION LAW GROUP, P.C.



Robert L. Gonser

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

December 6, 2007

Re: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field

Dear Ms. Russell:

I live in Burton Valley with my three boys (ages 12, 9, and 4) and wife, not too far from Matt Chaney. I've interacted with Matt on an adult softball team, in his volunteer duties in youth sports, in his volunteer duties at Burton Valley Elementary School, and have observed him greeting neighbors of all ages. While I don't know Matt as well as I would like to know him, I lend my support to naming either of the baseball fields at 711 St. Mary's Road "Chaney Field."

I support the renaming effort because Matt is a local legend putting others in our community before himself. And while Matt is sick with ALS (a disease forever associated with baseball's Lou Gehrig), I've never once heard him complain about his own situation. In short, with his continuous positive attitude, Matt Chaney is a role model for parents and children alike. Matt's water glass is always half full, rather than half empty. Let's celebrate Matt Chaney and the positive influence he has had on our community by naming a baseball field after him.

Sincerely,

Kurt Franklin
604 Huntleigh Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

November 29, 2007

Jennifer Russell, Director
Lafayette Parks & Recreation
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Director Russell,

It has come to my understanding the *Lafayette Little League* Board of Directors is considering a proposal to honor a local citizen of our community, Matt Chaney, by renaming one of the fields at Buckeye Fields in his honor. I think this is a great idea.

My family is not involved with *Lafayette Little League*. With daughters, Little League is not part of the world we live in. However, I am very familiar with Matt Chaney and his history of community volunteerism at Burton Valley Elementary, and his tremendous inspiration to many as he lives everyday with ALS.

I understand that the *Lafayette Little League* board is considering ways to raise awareness and develop a manner in which to raise funds for research for the ALS Foundation in order to continue to seek a cure for this terrible disease.

I can think of no other person in the community whose inspiration to others is greater than Matt Chaney. This small tribute, the renaming of a community baseball field, would be an inspiring and lasting way to recognize Matt's contribution and legacy in our community.

Sincerely,

Todd Mullins

3178 Somerset Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

December, 2. 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549
Attn: Parks and Recreation Commission

RE: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field

My name is Paul Lefcourt and my wife and 2 children live in Burton Valley. My family has known Matt Chaney and his family for the last 7 years. We have boys the same age and I, personally, have become close friends with Matt.

As I am sure you are aware, Matt suffers from ALS. Despite this degenerative disease, Matt has not slowed down in the least. In addition to handling the challenges of daily life with ALS, Matt is recognized nationally as one of the largest fund raisers and avid spokesperson for the ALS organization. In addition, Matt is participating in several ALS scientific studies in hopes of helping find a cure for ALS so people in the future do not have to suffer from this disease.

Matt is a huge sports fan and has been an avid supporter of Lafayette children's sports. Matt has coached and participated on a board level, most notably for Lafayette Little League.

Whenever you see Matt he has a smile on his face and never talks about the down side of his disease. Matt has quite an amazing spirit. He is a continuing inspiration for our kids, and for us adults, showing that even in the face of a life threatening disease you can still get through your day with a smile and continue to help others.

Based on the above, I think it is most fitting to have Buckeye Field South renamed to Chaney Field in Matt's honor.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Paul Lefcourt
393 Hermosa Court, Lafayette
925-518-5652

952 Hawthorn Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

December 2, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department,

I wanted to send you this letter of support for the renaming of the Buckeye South field to "Chaney Field," in order to commemorate Matt Chaney, and his many years of dedication and service to Lafayette Little League.

Matt's numerous years of coaching and volunteer time with our baseball league and with LMYA are an inspiration to the families that volunteer and participate in the youth sports of our community. Naming the field in his honor is a fitting tribute to a man that clearly deserves to be recognized.

Sincerely,

Alan Goepel
Promotions Committee Chair
Lafayette Little League

The City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in regards to the changing of South Buckeye to Chaney Field. Matt Chaney is a role model not only for our community, but for anyone who feels life has dealt them a tough hand. He perseveres in the face of great odds with grace, dignity and on top of all a smile, facing what is a very crippling physical, and therefore emotional disease. Yet through it all he maintains a positive spirit like none other that I have ever experienced. His sheer force of life is truly amazing.

Matt's contributions to the community are many. I have had the pleasure of witnessing him ref football games at BVE during lunch recesses. He shares himself, his time and his wonderful outlook and sense of fairness with all. He has taught my children (and many BVE children) good sportsmanship, team spirit and the beauty of fair play. He is the embodiment of positive thinking and a treasure that we are fortunate to have in our midst.

I would like to offer my support to the renaming of the South Field at Buckeye to be called Chaney Field in honor of a truly phenomenal person, Matt Chaney.

Sincerely,

Gale Remotto
3255 Camino Colorados
Lafayette, Ca 94549

December 4, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department

I would like to go on record, recommending the renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field as a tribute to the endless hours and dedication served by Matt Chaney. It would take hours to walk through the specific details in which Mr. Chaney has contributed to Lafayette Little League. His emphases on safety and subsequent policy implementations have greatly improved our program. These improvements will affect the baseball program in our city for years to come.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Simmons

To Jennifer Russell
Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission

RE: Matt Chaney

My letter is in support of having the South Buckeye field renamed after Matt Chaney. Matt is a wonderful person who has had an incredible impact on the residents of this community and in particular the boys and girls of Lafayette Little League. I have been involved with Lafayette Little League for close to 10 years as a parent and coach, the last five years as a member of the Board. Throughout this time Matt has been a tireless volunteer both in coaching players on the ball field about respect for the game and sportsmanship. Additionally, he has been a valuable member of the board donating countless hours to the success of the program.

I strongly support this effort to recognize Matt's accomplishment and impacts on the youth of our community.

Sincerely,

Ken

Board Member
Vice President and Chief Umpire
Lafayette Little League

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

December 5, 2007

Jennifer,

Please accept this correspondence as a definitive recommendation to rename Buckeye South Field to Chaney Field. I've had the privilege of knowing Matt Chaney for the past 9 years, and had the pleasure of serving on the Lafayette Little League Board of Directors with him for three years. I have found Matt to be an incredibly courageous individual, that has made significant contributions to our community. Specific to his involvement with Lafayette Little League and Buckeye Fields, his leadership and guidance as a board member had a substantial impact on the culture, mission and subsequent continuing success of the organization. With Matt, it was always "all about the kids". Throughout the Buckeye undertaking, his focus on the kids helped guide the project to become a truly special resource for our community. Since both Matt Chaney and Buckeye Fields represent everything that is good about youth sports, it is only fitting that one of the fields bear his name as a lasting reminder that it really is "all about the kids".

Steven E. Shelton
Executive Vice President

California Bank of Commerce
3595 Mount Diablo Boulevard
Second Floor
Lafayette, CA 94549

Direct: 925-444-2934
Main: 925-283-2265

David A. Rabbino
1411 Sunset Loop
Lafayette, CA 94549

December 6, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Renaming Buckeye Field to "Chaney Field"

Dear Director of Parks and Recreation:

I am sending this letter to support the renaming of Buckeye Field to "Chaney Field" in honor of Matt Chaney. There are few individuals in the City of Lafayette deserving of such an honor, but Matt is clearly one of them.

Matt's tireless efforts to work with the schools in Lafayette, the Little League, and children in general is second to none. This notwithstanding Matt's valiant fight against ALS. He is universally loved by children and his friends. Matt's cheerful disposition, continuous positive attitude, and supportive manner with all people he comes in contact with serves as an example of the very best this community has to offer.

Many in Matt's position would retreat within themselves. Not only does he not do so, he demonstrates on a daily basis a degree of courage that should be emulated by all. There is simply no better role-model in the City of Lafayette.

I strongly support the renaming of Buckeye Field to Chaney Field.

Very Truly Yours,

/s

David Rabbino

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Renaming Buckeye Field South, Chaney Field

Dear Jennifer,

As a member of the Lafayette Little League Board and active manager each year, I fully support the proposal to rename Buckeye's South Field to Chaney Field. As parents and coaches we teach our kids the importance of passion, perseverance, family, and to recognize how fortunate we all are as residents of Lafayette and members of Lafayette Little League.

Matt Chaney's attitude, determination, proactive approach, and unconditional involvement in our community and youth sports are what I believe to be the distinct qualities we strive for with Lafayette Little League and our great community.

Each year, kids ages 8 through 12 will experience games in our Buckeye complex, and hopefully Chaney Field.

A lot can be learned about the importance of perseverance and active community involvement each time our kids ask about Matt Chaney. If only he is described as an unselfish, active and passionate member of our community who makes every effort to stay engaged in all activities despite a life threatening illness, a very positive lesson will evolve with all kids who participate in Lafayette Little League.

I look forward to the day when my son asks me about Matt Chaney.

Sincerely,

John Whelehan

December 5, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Jennifer,

As a current Board Member of Lafayette Little League, I am writing this letter to show my support for changing the name of Buckeye Field South, to "Chaney Field" in honor of one of our own residence, Matt Chaney.

Matt is not only a friend and neighbor to many of us here in our small close knit community of Lafayette, he is a living example of someone who has continued to give back to his community and has shown us that he is someone who really cares. He has become an inspiration to all of us and has set a fine example for our children, the future citizens of Lafayette. He truly personifies the sense of community and spirit of Lafayette

Matt has served our youth and Lafayette for many years by volunteering his time and energy helping to create a better place for all of us. These volunteer efforts include:

- 1) Serving on the Board of LMYA.
- 2) Serving on the Board of Lafayette Little League.
- 3) Serving as Safety Manager for Lafayette Little League.
- 4) Serving the Schools of Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Intermediate School as a classroom assistant and playground organizer.
- 5) Serving as a groundskeeper for fields at Lafayette Little League.
- 6) Leading weekly sing-along's for the Mulberry Tree preschoolers.
- 7) Chaperoning the 4th grade camp at Coloma.
- 8) A leading fund raiser for ALS.

Matt has preformed these activities while battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and has continued to live his life while giving to others. Matt has become an advocate for raising the awareness of ALS all while maintaining a positive, humorous and dignified approach.

In honor of Matt and all that he stands for, I strongly recommend the renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field.

Sincerely,
Tim Regan
VP of AA
Lafayette Little League
925-876-8479

December 6, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Subject: Renaming Buckeye South "Chaney Field"

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby pledge my overwhelming support for renaming Buckeye Field South- 'Chaney Field'. Matt Chaney has been a tremendous role model for the community with his work with charitable organization and youth sports. Through his actions he has been an inspiration to all. It is people like Matt Chaney that make Lafayette a great place to live.

Eric & Jane Ladrech

Brian J. Candell, MD
1 Country Club Plaza
Orinda, CA 94563
925.254.3805 phone 925.254.9783 fax

December 6, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to 'Chaney Field'

Jennifer,

I am writing to add my name to the list of the many people I know, and probably scores of others I am not aware of that want to have the Buckeye South Field renamed in honor of Matt Chaney. I am basing my endorsement as a local physician and resident in this community for the past 17 years, and as a Father of school age children. I am sure you have had other letters that have outlined Matt's selfless dedication to the Lamorinda sporting and school communities, but even without mentioning that I can make a strong recommendation for renaming the field in his honor.

Matt has been a strong supporter, leader and advocate for the local and National ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – Lou Gehrig's Disease) community, even while suffering the ravages of the disease himself. He gives inspiration, support and is a role model to other's suffering from ALS. He does all this along with raising money for the ALS Society even though these efforts will not benefit him, but will hopefully benefit future generations of ALS patients.

Beyond that, Matt exemplifies the personal qualities that we as parents in this community want our kids to model. He smiles and struggles through adversity, he never gives up, and is selfless in his giving to others.

If you add his support to the little league and sporting community, I can't think of a better and more deserving person to name this field after, as a lasting example to the youth of this community

Sincerely:

Brian J. Candell, MD

December 7, 2007

Jennifer Russell
City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Jennifer,

The first time I met Matt Chaney, about six years ago, I thought it odd him wearing wool gloves on a warm day in Lafayette. It wasn't until later that I learned he was suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrigs Disease), and had little circulation in his extremities, making his hands and feet constantly cold. Of course Matt would never mention this or anything else that may appear negative. Matt Chaney is the single most inspirational person I have ever come in contact with.

Matt Chaney is not only a dedicated husband and father to his immediate family, but has been dedicated to Lafayette youth above and beyond the call of duty. He has been a fixture at Burton Valley Elementary School where my children attended with Matt's two boys. He went on every possible field trip, was a teachers aid in the classroom and yard duty supervisor and coach during lunch time recesses. When you factor in all of the Soccer and Little League teams Matt has coached over the past ten years, I can't even imagine the number of lives he has touched.

Renaming one Little League field to honor this inspiring person would be a small step to honor his legacy. Driving by "Chaney Field" everyday would be cause for positive reflection and a tribute to a leader in this community.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brett Holden and family

Rosemary Kirbach
3378 Stage Coach Drive
Lafayette, California 94549
925-245-0432
rosemarykirbach@yahoo.com

Ms. Jennifer Russell
City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, California 94549

Re: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field

Dear Jennifer,

My name is Rosemary Kirbach and I am the current Vice President of the Challenger Division for Lafayette Little League. Challenger is a new division to Lafayette Little League; last year was the first year of what we know will be many successful seasons. All of the children who play on the Challenger team have special needs – some physical and some educational.

Our team plays all of its home games on Sundays at 2pm on the Buckeye South Field. It would be an honor for our team (which includes my own 10 year old son Patrick who has autism) to play its games on a field named in honor of Matt Chaney. The players on our team have and will continue to have certain obstacles to overcome in their lives. Matt's example inspires them and their families to persevere and focus on what makes us all the same as opposed to their differences. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance..

Very Truly Yours,

Rosemary Kirbach

December 10, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Subject: Letter of Recommendation to Rename Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor for me to have such an outstanding person as Matt Chaney to have a field named after. Matt exemplifies the spirit of our youth and more importantly is such a great role model for our kids and generations to come.

I absolutely support this proposal for renaming Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gallagher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Gallagher

601 Huntleigh Drive
Lafayette, Ca 94549

December 11, 2007

Jennifer Russell
City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Regarding Renaming Buckeye Field South to 'Chaney Field'

Jennifer,

As a past Board Member of Lafayette Little League and LMYA, I would like to offer my support for renaming Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field. I have known Matt for years and have witnessed his many years of service and dedication to the youth of Lafayette. His tireless efforts have helped shape a generation of Lafayette's children.

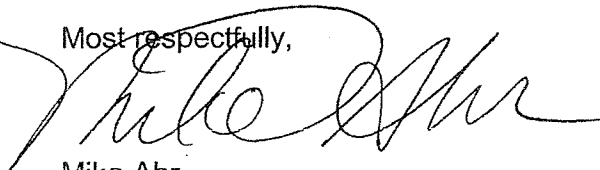
Matt has served our youth for many years in many ways, including:

- 1) Serving on the Board of LMYA.
- 2) Serving on the Board of Lafayette Little League.
- 3) Serving as Safety Manager for Lafayette Little League.
- 4) Managing/Coaching Lafayette Little League baseball teams and LMYA soccer.
- 5) Serving the Schools of Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Intermediate School as a classroom assistant and playground organizer.
- 6) Serving as a groundskeeper for fields at Lafayette Little League.
- 7) Chaperoning elementary schoolers to their class camps.
- 8) A leading fund raiser for ALS.

Matt's efforts have touched many more people than those directly involved the above activities. And he has preformed much of this service to us all while battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Even as his health has deteriorated, he maintains a great attitude and has been there for us when we have needed him. I believe it is time for us to be there for him and for his family. The community to which Matt has given so much can give back to him now be honoring all he does and has done.

Renaming Buckeye Field will forever honor one man's dedication to the youth of Lafayette. As we drive by, we will see his name and be reminded of how much he has given to us all. His name on the field will also serve to inspire us all to keep giving to our community as he does still. I hope the City supports this most deserving of dedications!

Most respectfully,



Mike Ahr
525 McBride Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-3109

December 10, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette , CA 94549

Dear Jennifer:

I would like to recommend that we rename Buckeye Fields after a long time Lafayette resident, volunteer, activist, and friend to many, Matthew Chaney. As you may know, Matt has been involved in many worthy causes, from LMYA soccer and Little League baseball, to various Lafayette schools, to pancake breakfast fundraisers, and as a major fundraiser for ALS. Matt has given more time to the youth of this community than any non-professional in the area. He practically lives at Buckeye for six months out of the year donating his time and giving his guidance and good cheer.

Matt's example has inspired me and others to get more involved in our community. When wondering whether I had the time to get serve on the LMYA soccer board, Matt encouraged me. He gives cheerfully and tirelessly of his time, and serves as the perfect role model for our kids with his positive and productive conduct both on and off the field.

As you may know, Matt also suffers from ALS. The disease is slowly but steadily sapping his strength, but Matt's demeanor and good cheer never waiver. He deals with this adversity as he deals with all other things in his life: Matter of factly, cheerfully. He doesn't dwell on his situation, but doesn't shy from it either if the situation calls for it. In this way he again sets a shining example for all of us, both youth and adult.

I strongly nominate – if that is the right term – the fields be renamed in Matthew Chaney's honor. I can think of no more deserving person to be so honored.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Bloom
Managing Director
Matthew Kennedy & Co
862 Mountain View Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Topic: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to 'Chaney Field'

Jennifer,

I am writing to ask your support in renaming the South Buckeye Field to Chaney Field in honor of Matt Chaney, a pillar in our community.

I have known Matt since my involvement in Lafayette Little League started 5 years ago. At that time Matt was one of the officials of our Little League and I was just a dad volunteering to coach my son's team. I knew something was special about Matt the first time I met him, it goes beyond enthusiasm for baseball, it is a sense of community and a spirit for helping kids to be the best that they can be.

This past Little League season with our son's on the same team I had the pleasure to be an assistant coach along side Matt providing me with the privilege of getting to know him much better. Matt's demeanor with the kids and his love of the game endeared him to the family's of our team. Matt's dedication to Little League has been unwavering and he always puts the kids best interests above all matters. Naming the South Buckeye Field to Chaney Field is a small gesture we can provide to show our community's gratitude for Matt's years of dedicate support, spirit and enthusiasm that he brings to our league and our community.

Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,


Greg Davis
Information Officer
Lafayette Little League
925-899-0768

Fran and Dan Miller
569 Arrowhead Dr.
Lafayette, CA 94549

November 28, 2007

Jennifer Russell, Director
Lafayette Parks & Recreation
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Jennifer:

My 11 and 12-year-old boys have long been the receivers of Matt Chaney's largesse – as have many youth in our community. As Mulberry Tree preschoolers, they were treated to a weekly sing-along led by Matt and his guitar. His natural storytelling talent has enthralled numerous Burton Valley students over the years. He helped dry a few homesick tears at fourth grade camp in Coloma, and he once alertly saved a fourth grade class from a tidal wave dousing at the Half Moon Bay tide pools.

Matt all but created the noon league sports program at Burton Valley, and he has coached a multitude of LMYA teams. For years, he led the emergency safety efforts at BVE; and when the BVE lost and found cart took on the appearance of a department store rack, Matt created a system to reunite sweatshirts and kids.

Matt does all this, and much more, out of a deep regard for youth, and his community. He is the true essence of a community volunteer.

My husband and I heartily endorse Lafayette Little League's proposal to change the name of the Southfield at Buckeye, to Chaney Field. This is a fitting tribute to someone who has given so much of himself to Lafayette.

Sincerely,

Fran and Dan Miller

P.S. In addition to all the wonderful things he does, Matt is simply a really nice guy!



LAFAYETTE LITTLE LEAGUE

City of Lafayette
Parks & Recreation
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Vice-President of Lafayette Little League and I write this letter in support of the suggestion that the South Field at Buckeye Field be renamed "Cheney Field" in honor of Matt Cheney's public service. Matt's commitment to Lafayette Little League, his contribution to the youth in our community, and the lesson of courage he has taught all of our children merit, at a minimum, honoring him in this way.

Matt has been, and continues to be, an outstanding volunteer to Lafayette Little League. Matt served on the Board of Directors of Lafayette Little League, devoting his energy to serving as the league's safety officer. In that role, he dedicated himself to assuring that the league protected its players and provided an environment where all could have a good experience. In addition to his Board responsibilities, Matt always assumed the additional role of Managing or Coaching a team.

More importantly, he has always been a vocal advocate for the welfare of all of the young people participating in the program. Even after his service on the Board concluded, Matt has acted as the de facto conscience of the Board. Matt would often consult with current Board members or even broadcast his opinion to the entire board to ensure that all participants were treated fairly and given the best opportunity to succeed.

Indeed, Matt's service to young people in our community extended far beyond Little League. He even organized daily noon time sports leagues for 4th and 5th grade students at Burton Valley School.

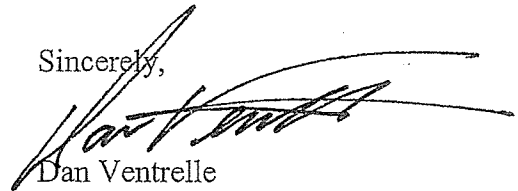
These outstanding qualities, on their own, are sufficient to justify honoring Matt. However, what has made his service and commitment to this community truly exemplary is that he has done this all while battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis ("ALS"). Although his physical capacities may not always have been what he would have liked, Matt always contributed with instruction, support, motivation, and teaching the values of fairness and sportsmanship to the young people who were fortunate enough to be around him. None of us ever heard Matt complain about his condition. To the contrary, his energy and dedication always surpassed those around him. In the process, he taught our

kids about courage, a commitment to family, and dedication to this community in a way more powerful than any of us could ever express to them in words. He taught them by living it beside them in a way that none of them will ever forget.

Our kids have been fortunate to be around Matt. Naming the South field in his honor will motivate us to teach young people decades into the future what true courage, commitment, and a love of this community are about by reminding them of Matt's life and service.

If either I or Lafayette Little League can be of any assistance in bringing this desire to honor Matt to fruition, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Ventrelle", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Ventrelle
Vice-President
Lafayette Little League
h: 283-7575
c: 415-320-0051

**PETER N. ZOLINTAKIS
4200 CANYON ROAD
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549**

December 10, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am writing to support the renaming of Buckeye Field South to Chaney Field.

Over the last several years, I have coached seven teams in Lafayette Little League and nine teams in MOL Football. As a coach, you are always looking for the short phrase that captures the essence of competition which you can use to get your players to focus. Something that will also have meaning well beyond sports. For me, that phrase has been "Be a Winner." Which to me and every player who has ever played for me means two things: Always try your best and Never give up. If you are a "Winner," the score at the end of the game does not matter because you will always be satisfied with your performance. My hope is that all the players I have had the privilege of coaching will take this message with them throughout their lives.

I know that you are aware that Matt is battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). I also know that you are aware of the numerous contributions Matt has made to the Lafayette community over the years. For all of us that know Matt and have watched the spirit with which he is living his life while facing the challenge of ALS, we believe that he is a Winner by any measure. Matt has touched so many lives in the community in such a positive way.

At the baseball field, my son and I see Matt coaching players. We see Matt swing his arm to gain momentum sufficient enough to raise his hand to his face. Both my son and I can tell that something is seriously wrong with Matt. I know what is wrong, but my son does not. My son asks me why Matt can't lift his hand to his face. I explain to him that Matt has ALS and what the effects of ALS are. My son asks if he will keep getting worse. I tell him yes while I start to get choked up. He then asks me why Matt is out here coaching kids if he has ALS. I tell him it's because Matt is a Winner. I see that look in my son's eyes that tells me he gets it.

I would love to keep the spirit that Matt lives his life with alive forever. Naming the Buckeye South Field after Matt will remind all of us that know him of all that he stands for.

Respectfully,

Peter Zolintakis
Lafayette Little League Board
MOL Football Board

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR
CHANNEY FIELD

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

RE: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to 'Chaney Field'

Ms. Russell,

I'm writing to communicate not only my but my entire families enthusiastic support for the renaming of Buckeye Field South to "Chaney field" and to advise you of the tremendous support in the community for Matt Chaney to be honored in this manner.

I say my family because not only I but my entire family has been touched in a positive way by Matt Chaney. My four boys have benefited knowing Matt through LLL and at Burton Valley Elementary where he volunteered and worked doing many things for the kids including coordinating and directing the kids athletic programs and noon time leagues. Whether working at the school, coaching in LLL, or serving LLL as a volunteer he took care of the kids. Matt demonstrated great compassion, teaching the right way, sportsmanship and integrity and being the good example individual you appreciate your children being around.

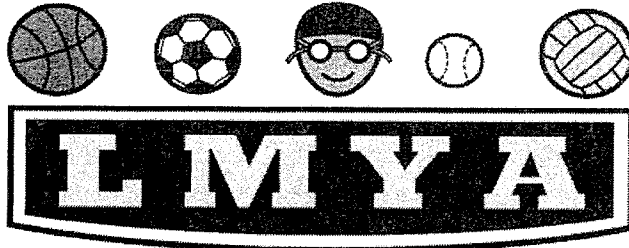
I served for several years on the Board of LLL, on committees and coaching during which time I saw and dealt first hand with Matt Chaney challenging all of us to think, behave and remember it's "All about the Kids".

He has been an inspiration and again demonstrating, teaching, grace, character, humility and humanity in his fight with ALS. I could not think of a better person or better way to honor the significance of Matt Chaney-- his character and goodwill - that this community has so benefited from than to name the field in his honor.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this honor for Matt Chaney!

Respectfully,

Adam Henderson/ Family



LAFAYETTE MORAGA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

PO Box 395 • Lafayette, CA 94549

11 December 2007

Attention: Jennifer Russell
City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
500 St. Mary's Rd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Jennifer:

The Lafayette Moraga Youth Association is a proud supporter of changing the name of the Buckeye Field South to "Chaney Field". LMYA, as so many organizations in the community, benefited directly from Matt Chaney's donation of time and talent. His contributions to our organization, in addition to coach, include the Herculean task of managing our soccer referee program. That involved training and guiding approximately 100 of Lafayette's older youth in their first job experience and assigning them to the 70 or so games fielded every Saturday.

Knowing Matt and his relentless dedication to the children of our town, we can only guess at the number of people and organizations touched by his generosity. But without doubt, his greatest contribution to us all has been what an outstanding role model he has been for our children. Battling ALS, he has never demonstrated anything but courage and selflessness. He is an inspiration to all that know him. In changing the name of Buckeye Field to "Chaney Field" we are not so much honoring Matt, as we are honoring the field that will bear his name. LMYA feels it is important for the city to recognize how blessed we are to have someone of Matt's stature and character as our neighbor and friend.

Respectfully,

Judy McNeil
LMYA Administrator

Ed Igou
LMYA Soccer Commissioner

December 10, 2007

City of Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Potential Change of Fields to "Chaney Field"

Dear Jennifer-

It is with great pride that I have the opportunity to write in support of the City of Lafayette's consideration to re-name one of the Buckeye Fields in honor of my good friend, Matt Chaney. I am also honored to have been recently asked to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ALS Association of the Greater Bay Area and am writing on behalf of the ALS Association to also encourage the City of Lafayette to provide Matt with this honor.

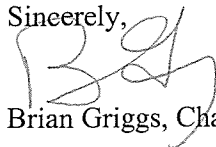
Matt Chaney and I served together as coaches, managers, and Board members for many years in the Lafayette Little League program. During this time I was able to see how Matt's commitment and dedication to making the program for the children in our community the best it could be. Matt and I shared the conviction that the league should be for children of all ages and abilities and thru Matt's involvement and leadership, the program's success has continued to escalate. Initially, there was a perception that the league was for the "better players" but that has now changed, in large part thanks to Matt, and now the league is truly for "all players" of all abilities.

In regard to the ALS Association, Matt has been a true leader by example in his daily fight against this awful disease. I have seen the progression of the disease with Matt and while he is not longer able to show kids how to throw a curve ball, his positive outlook and sensitive touch to all certainly is a great influence upon others. Our Association has used Matt as somewhat of a "poster representative" on how you can live with the disease and despite the daily struggles which the disease provides, continue to strive forward and have a positive effect on others. Matt has shared his experiences and wisdom with countless fellow patients and that positive outlook and impact has certainly helped make the lives of those inflicted with the disease much happier. Again, Matt leads by example, just as he did with the Lafayette Little League.

I strongly urge the City of Lafayette to grant this honor to Matt Chaney. I can think of no more deserving individual and the City's ability to increase the awareness of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis disease will certainly be appreciated not only by our Association, but all of the patients and family who have been impacted by ALS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Griggs, Chairman



December 17, 2007

City of Lafayette
Parks and Recreation Department
Attention: Jennifer Russell
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

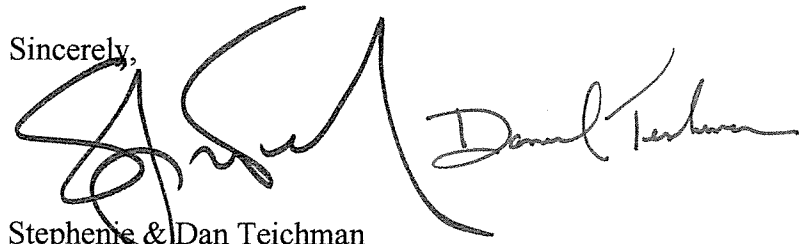
Topic: Renaming of Buckeye Field South to 'Chaney Field'

Dear Jennifer,

Please accept this letter as evidence of our whole-hearted support of the Lafayette Little League's decision to rename Buckeye Field South to "Chaney Field". While Lafayette is blessed with many admirable adults who volunteer their time to this community, there is no more exemplary role-model than Matt Chaney. In addition to his constant support of youth sports, as evidenced by his many years of service on the LMYA and LLL executive boards, he promotes the development of character in our youth by daily example. In spite of the physical difficulties that accompany his ALS, he carries himself with dignity, and continues to promote involvement, honesty, integrity and sportsmanship for the youth of Lafayette. Matt could choose to do many things with the time he has left with us, and has chosen to generously share himself with this community, and our youth in particular. We would like to see us honor him, sooner rather than later.

Additionally, there is a practical side to the renaming as well. While Buckeye Field is a huge improvement over the name "7/11" field, there continues to be confusion over the various fields when people refer to them alternatively as the "large vs. small field", "north vs. south field", "majors vs. minors field" or the "field on the left or right". We suggest the renaming of Buckeye Field South to "Chaney Field" will not only allow us to appropriately honor a respected individual in our community, but provide some much needed clarity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephenie & Dan Teichman". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first name "Stephenie" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Teichman" written in a more formal, slightly cursive style.

Stephenie & Dan Teichman
3265 Reliez Court
Lafayette, Ca 94549

(925) 939-6603

November 29, 2007

Jennifer Russell, Director
Lafayette Parks & Recreation
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Director Russell,

It has come to my understanding the *Lafayette Little League* Board of Directors is considering a proposal to honor a local citizen of our community, Matt Chaney, by renaming one of the fields at Buckeye Fields in his honor. I think this is a great idea.

My family is not involved with *Lafayette Little League*. With daughters, Little League is not part of the world we live in. However, I am very familiar with Matt Chaney and his history of community volunteerism at Burton Valley Elementary, and his tremendous inspiration to many as he lives everyday with ALS.

I understand that the *Lafayette Little League* board is considering ways to raise awareness and develop a manner in which to raise funds for research for the ALS Foundation in order to continue to seek a cure for this terrible disease.

I can think of no other person in the community whose inspiration to others is greater than Matt Chaney. This small tribute, the renaming of a community baseball field, would be an inspiring and lasting way to recognize Matt's contribution and legacy in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Mullins", with a stylized, flowing script.

Todd Mullins

3178 Somerset Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

Russell, Jennifer

From: Steven E. Shelton [seshelton@bankcbc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 7:03 PM
To: Russell, Jennifer
Cc: Jon Ewing
Subject: Remaining of Buckeye Field to Chaney Field

Jennifer,

Please accept this correspondence as a definitive recommendation to rename Buckeye South Field to Chaney Field. I've had the privilege of knowing Matt Chaney for the past 9 years, and had the pleasure of serving on the Lafayette Little League Board of Directors with him for three years. I have found Matt to be an incredibly courageous individual, that has made significant contributions to our community. Specific to his involvement with Lafayette Little League and Buckeye Fields, his leadership and guidance as a board member had a substantial impact on the culture, mission and subsequent continuing success of the organization. With Matt, it was always "all about the kids". Throughout the Buckeye undertaking, his focus on the kids helped guide the project to become a truly special resource for our community. Since both Matt Chaney and Buckeye Fields represent everything that is good about youth sports, it is only fitting that one of the fields bear his name as a lasting reminder that it really is "all about the kids".

Steven E. Shelton
Executive Vice President



3595 Mount Diablo Boulevard
Second Floor
Lafayette, CA 94549

Direct: 925-444-2934
Main: 925-283-2265

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12/7/2007

Russell, Jennifer

From: Jon Ewing [j_ewing@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 12:26 PM
To: Russell, Jennifer
Cc: Dan Ventrelle; WFDUNN5@YAHOO.COM; Donald Stanners; Ken Avery; Greg Davis; Dan Baldwin; Peter Zolintakis; Kurt A. Franklin; Tim Regan; Harrington, Dan; Jonathan Bone; philremotto@comcast.net; Dan O'Malley; Rosemary Kirbach; Alan Goepel; 'John Whelehan'; Jenny Davis; BGBMurphy@aol.com; Adam Henderson; John.Brydon@indymacbank.com; nicole cassidy; Russ Stryker; Timothy Martinho (E-mail); Bob Gonser; Michaelzampa@yahoo.com; Steve Shelton; Brett Holden; coachbanard@comcast.net; Brian Griggs
Subject: Renaming of Buckeye Field to Chaney Field

Tuesday December 4, 2007

To: Jennifer Russell, City of Lafayette Parks and Rec. Dept.

Topic: Renaming Buckeye Field South, Chaney Field

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for placing Lafayette Little League's proposal to rename Buckeye Field South, Chaney Field on your agenda for the Parks and Rec. Commission Meeting on December 12th. I know you share our strong feelings toward Matt and appreciate you providing us the opportunity to present this proposal to the Commission.

As further background, I would like point you toward two recent articles that one of our Board Members sent to me which do a fine job of articulating what Matt stands for and what he means to our community.

http://www.rideforlife.com/news/pals_profiles/on_his_feet_to_fight_als.html

<http://www.santamariasun.com/index.php?p=showarticle&id=2827>

We are continuing to prepare at our end by accumulating numerous letters of support for this proposal. Many of these letters may be coming to you directly.

Thanks again,

Jon Ewing